

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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FATAL CRASH RESULTS IN BAR LIQUOR LICENSE SUSPENSION

Redding – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today suspended the liquor license of McGee's Corner Bar, 3501 Deschutes Road in Anderson. The action was taken after two patrons left the bar in an intoxicated state the night of October 18, 2002, and crashed their car two-tenths of a mile from the bar.

Both 58-year-old Ray Allen Smith and 37-year-old Penny Loraine Miller died in the crash, while a third person, a 17-year-old female driving another car was severely injured. Smith and Miller had blood alcohol contents of point-23 and point-31 respectively. Point-08 is the legal limit in California to operate a vehicle.

The suspension of the liquor license was the result of a thorough investigation by one of the California Highway Patrol officers at the scene, which led to a follow-up investigation by ABC investigators in the Redding District Office. The investigation showed that both the bartender and the owner knew the two patrons were intoxicated, and yet kept serving them alcoholic beverages.

It is against the law in California to serve alcohol to someone who is obviously intoxicated.

The formal penalty was revocation of the license, with the revocation stayed for two years, plus a 45 day suspension of the liquor license. If during the two years of stayed revocation a similar violation occurs, the license could then be permanently revoked.

ABC Acting Director Jerry R. Jolly commended the CHP investigating officer for going above the normal accident investigation and obtaining information that was critical for ABC to seek administrative action against the bar's license.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.